

Gordon is a man with these skills and many more as evidenced by his tenure at the USGS.

Dr. Eaton is the 12th director in the 118-year history of the USGS. He has headed the agency for the past 3 years and has guided USGS through one of its most tumultuous periods. Dr. Eaton has led the bureau during a time of Government downsizing and has succeeded in redefining the mission of USGS so it may continue as a preeminent science bureau into the 21st century. When he came to the USGS, it was facing criticism that it had outlived its mission as a Government agency and no longer provided valuable scientific information. Dr. Eaton was able to expand the public's knowledge of the many contributions the USGS makes as well as make the services of the bureau more accessible to the public. Gordon was able to communicate the need for change to employees who felt threatened by and out-of-touch with their constituency.

Dr. Eaton helped the employees of USGS to rethink their position and helped the many different branches of the bureau to better coordinate their services. He made it a grassroots effort at the USGS as he tried to make sure everyone felt included in the changes at the agency. Dr. Eaton solicited the opinions of employees at every level in deciding how the agency could most effectively adapt to a new mission. Dr. Eaton's leadership skill and willingness to face down any challenge will certainly be missed by the many employees at USGS who enjoyed his open-door management style.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring and thanking Gordon Eaton for his achievements in guiding the U.S. Geological Survey into the next century. We appreciate all of his hard work and devotion in making the USGS an efficiently run agency that is able to provide the highest level of service to the American public.

LUPUS, A HARMFUL AND RAVAGING DISEASE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, recently, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK and I hosted a forum at Jackson Memorial Hospital to talk about a disease, lupus, that burdens the lives of almost 2 million Americans, striking 1 out of every 185 Americans. Moreover, although this disease can affect individuals at any age, and in either sex, 90 percent of those who suffer from this ravaging disease are women.

Lupus is not an equal opportunity illness. It not only targets women, but African-American and Hispanic women face an increased threat—as many as three times over.

Lupus, whose name comes from the facial rash it produces, is an autoimmune disease, where instead of protecting itself against viruses, bacteria, and other foreign materials, the body makes antibodies against itself. It is in a class of illnesses that includes forms of diabetes, arthritis and, according to recent research, many also include a number of conditions such as Parkinsons. All of these illnesses occur when the immune system ends up attacking the very body it is supposed to defend.

Although this devastating disease is not infectious, rare, or cancerous and it ranges from mild to life-threatening, the reality is that thousands of Americans die with lupus each year. Moreover, while many other chronic diseases make the headlines, lupus affects more individuals than AIDS, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, sickle-cell anemia, and cystic fibrosis combined.

Even though the outlook for lupus patients has greatly improved, there is still a need for increased research. Therefore, I am proud to be a cosponsor of CARRIE MEEK's bill, H.R. 1111, legislation which will increase research funded through the National Institutes of Health from \$33 million last year to \$50 million for the next fiscal year and would make an additional \$50 million available to State and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, to assist with providing essential services to low-income individuals with lupus.

While improvements in medication can allow those afflicted to look forward to a normal life span, there is still much work to be done in education and research. It is my hope that this legislation will hasten the day when lupus is nothing more than a bad memory.

I implore my colleagues to take an active role during Lupus Awareness Month and sign onto H.R. 1111, which 84 of my colleagues have already cosponsored, so that those 2 million Americans afflicted with lupus will have a fighting chance of battling this harmful and ravaging disease.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1534) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the U.S. Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other Government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when Government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution:

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chairman, I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act. I proudly voted for this bill when it passed the full House on October 23, 1997.

The fifth amendment in the Bill of Rights guarantees the protection of individuals against the power of all levels of government. According to recent studies, between 80 and 95 percent of all individuals trying to defend their fifth amendment rights in Federal court never get a hearing on the facts of their case. They get lost in a bureaucratic maze of administrative and judicial hurdles that waste time and money.

Of those 5 to 20 percent who break through that maze, it takes an average of 10 years be-

fore the merits of their case are even heard. That's 10 years of fighting just to have your fifth amendment claim heard in Federal court. That is 10 years of financial burden and stress for the private property owner in Montana.

Let me give you a specific example from my home State of Montana. There was a plan to develop a condominium project over a 4 acre area. The aim of this project was to provide affordable housing for the community, with plans to develop 34 units at about the average cost of \$85,000 per unit.

That sounds quite simple and certainly beneficial, but with the current process this was not the case. To go through the approval process, the project was zoned residential, went through a planned unit development hearing, numerous reviews, a redrawing of the plans approximately five times, and an extensive hearing process, all before the city commission granted a final approval. This took approximately 1½ years.

However, the city commission approved the project with only 24 units. This completely changed the concept of the project, and proved quite burdensome. After a year and a half of extensive hearings, what recourse did the project directors face? They could appeal, not to a court, but to the city commission who had granted this arbitrary number of 24 units or once again begin a costly and untimely review process.

Without access to a court, the project managers had little choice but to proceed with the city commission's inflexible recommendation of 24 condominiums. This, of course, had dramatic consequences.

What was supposed to be affordable housing units at \$85,000 per unit, ended up costing \$135,000 per unit. Due to structural modifications forced by the commission's approval, this excessive cost undermined the intent of providing affordable housing.

Furthermore, imagine if this were the case for first amendment rights protecting freedom of religion, or fourth amendment rights protecting against illegal search and seizure. I wonder whether those arguing against H.R. 1534 would feel so passionate about protecting the status quo. All Montanans including Montana property owners, deserve equal protection under the Constitution and an equal ability to defend their constitutional rights in Federal court.

The House spoke on behalf of guaranteeing equal protection when it passed this much-needed legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues further in the hope that the Senate will take up this measure.

TRIBUTE TO W. PETER MCBRIDE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention W. Peter McBride of Franklin Lakes, NJ who is being honored this evening as the "1997 Man of the Year" by the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson. This award is presented to Peter in recognition of his outstanding leadership activities throughout the north Jersey area, and his many philanthropic activities in the Greater Paterson community.

Peter was born and lived his early childhood in Paterson. He attended primary school in